

# U.S. hands off Iraq, Syria, Yemen & Palestine! Will the Pentagon attack Iran?

By Stephen Millies

After frame-up victims Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were executed in 1953, French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre wrote that the capitalist United States was “sick with rabies.”

Seven decades later, Wall Street’s Big Oil empire is even more rabid and bloodthirsty. Using U.S.-supplied bombs and shells, the Zionist regime occupying Palestine has killed 30,000 people in Gaza. Behind the fascist Benjamin Netanyahu is Genocide Joe Biden.

In less than a month the Pentagon has attacked Iraq, Syria and Yemen, killing dozens with bombs and missiles. Over 106 million people live in these three sovereign countries.

Twenty-one years after the Second Gulf War, U.S. troops are still in Iraq despite the country’s parliament demanding that they leave. The U.S. occupies oil fields in Syria and steals the petroleum.

Beginning in 2014, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — both vassal states of Big Oil — invaded Yemen, killing 377,000 people before being beaten back. Meanwhile Yemen was blockaded by the U.S. Navy as its children starved.

Now the U.S. and Britain are bombing Yemen because the country has closed the Red Sea to ships owned by or going to apartheid “Israel.” Yemen’s people, led by the Ansarallah movement, are doing so in righteous solidarity with Gaza.

In the last week the Biden administration has struck Iraq and Syria over 75 times. A Feb. 7 attack killed two commanders of a resistance group in Baghdad. Iraqis responded by chanting “America is the devil.”

The White House’s excuse for these devilish attacks was a drone that hit a U.S. base in Jordan near the Syrian border on Jan. 28. Three Black GIs from Georgia were killed.



Emergency responders at the site of a burned vehicle hit by a U.S. drone strike in east Baghdad, Iraq, Feb. 7.

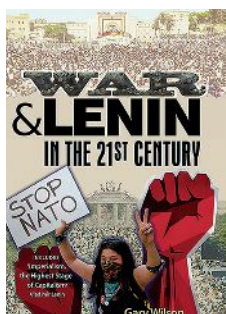
As with over 7,000 Black GIs killed in the dirty war against Vietnam and Laos, it’s the Pentagon that has the blood of these three soldiers on its hands.

## Demonizing the oppressed

The wealthy and powerful always slander freedom fighters. The U.S. State Department kept Nelson Mandela on its terrorist list until he was 89 years old.

The response of the Zionist state to the International Court of Justice chastising its crimes in Gaza was to attack the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. Netanyahu’s regime claimed that a dozen of the UNRWA’s 13,000 employees took part in the Oct.

*Continued on page 8*



## STOP U.S.-led war on PALESTINE & YEMEN

- Shut Down D.C.
- NYC gets louder for Palestine
- Antisemitism trivialized
- Israel suffers a defeat at ICJ



## REPARATIONS

- Trump sparks outrage in Teamsters union
- Hopes of a dying trans woman
- Cuba solidarity: What else can we do?
- Migrant caravans challenge border regime
- NEW BOOK** ► Studying Lenin to fight imperialist war and racism

# JUSTICE DEMANDS REPARATIONS

## Socialist candidate on Black History Month

By Struggle-La Lucha

California's 37th district socialist congressional candidate John Parker declared that "justice demands reparations" at the beginning of Black History Month. While supporting the efforts of California legislators to secure restitution of stolen property and other important items, Parker believes more has to be fought for.

"Over 50 years ago, the Staples Singers asked 'when will we be paid for the work we've done?'" said John Parker. "The money is there. Just the four richest California billionaires have a total stash of over \$600 billion. All of their loot represents the unpaid wages of workers that produced that vast wealth."

Parker pointed out that "Biden can hand over \$14 billion to Israel to kill over 30,000 Palestinians in Gaza, of whom over 10,000 were children. Meanwhile SNAP benefits, formerly known as food stamps, were cut by a monthly average of \$90 per household last year. Gaza's children are literally starving while millions in the United States are forced to line up for food banks."

"Reparations include bringing home the sisters and brothers who've been railroaded to prison," said Parker. "Trump and all the other corporate gangsters, bankers and slumlords should be locked up instead."

The socialist candidate declared that "capitalist deindustrialization has deliberately targeted Black workers. While 50 years ago General Motors was the largest employer of Black workers, who were members of the United Auto Workers, today more Black workers are employed at low-wage, non-union Walmart than anywhere else."

"Stopping the war against Black people will be a vic-

**CAMPAIGN STATEMENT ON  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**When will we get paid  
for the work we've done?**



tory for all poor and working people," said John Parker. "It goes hand-in-hand with demanding a ceasefire in Gaza and justice for Palestine."

John Thompson Parker is a member of the Socialist Unity Party who's running as the Peace and Freedom Party candidate for the 37th congressional district, which includes much of South Los Angeles, as well as parts of Culver City and Inglewood. He was jailed in Egypt while part of a solidarity delegation seeking to bring aid to Gaza.

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# 'A slap in the face': Trump meeting sparks outrage in Teamsters union

By Lallan Schoenstein

By acting in the role of the old racist and sexist business-unionism leadership, Teamsters union President Sean O'Brien made a sharp break with the new progressive union movement — personally visiting Donald Trump in Mar-a-Lago, Florida, on Jan. 26. Subsequently, O'Brien demanded the entire Teamsters General Executive Board meet with Trump at the union's headquarters in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 31.

Forming a vocal opposition, John Palmer, a Teamsters International vice president from Texas, refused to attend the meeting with an "insurrectionist." In an interview with Steve Zeltser on WorkWeek Radio, Palmer said: "There's zero — nothing on issues that affect labor that Donald Trump supports nor has he ever supported. Trump basically spits in our faces."

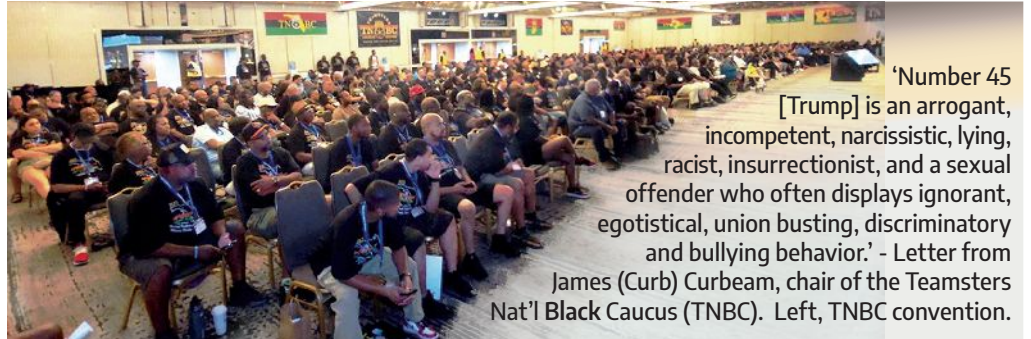
The Teamsters National Black Caucus said in a statement about O'Brien's meeting with Trump: Trump's "union-busting tactics, blatant disregard for government, and his bigotry are known ... as he has proudly touted his vile rhetoric to any listening audience."

Chris Silvera, a leader of Teamsters Local 808 and former chair of the Teamsters Black Caucus, said: "We're not dealing with the Republican Party anymore. People should be very clear about this. They are confederates, people who think there needs to be a Civil War. You've got a president of the Teamsters union who's consorting and is actually helping give credibility to this person who's calling for a dictatorship."

Silvera explained: "O'Brien went to Mar-a-Lago, the place where people go to bow down there to 'Kiss the Ring of Donald Trump.' There's something improper with our president making this trip to the headquarters of the confederacy."

"It is an affront to all those members who are not a party to this fascist movement. It sends a message to all the Black, Latin, Muslim, and women union members that you really don't care about them."

"O'Brien's worrying about the racist elements within the union. Instead he should be trying to either convert those



'Number 45 [Trump] is an arrogant, incompetent, narcissistic, lying, racist, insurrectionist, and a sexual offender who often displays ignorant, egotistical, union busting, discriminatory and bullying behavior.' - Letter from James (Curb) Curbeam, chair of the Teamsters Nat'l Black Caucus (TNBC). Left, TNBC convention.

elements over to a newfound reality or to isolate them. To really believe that we had to play with them at this moment in history is troubling, to say the least."

## Gained appearance of militant leader

During Teamsters union organizing campaigns at Amazon and contract negotiations such as that with UPS last July, Sean O'Brien gained the appearance of a militant labor leader, covering up an earlier image of a tough guy with shady connections.

The Teamsters UPS contract campaign, "while notable for its bloviating, looked hollow compared with the UAW 'Stand Up Strikes' against the former Big Three automakers," writes Joe Allen, author of "The Package King: A Rank and File History of United Parcel Service."

O'Brien comes from Teamsters Local 25 in Boston, which is reported to have a long history of racism. Silvera says there are no Black workers there. Strangely enough, Black workers sat on the Executive Board of Local 25 at the turn of the century. Silvera says, "Local 25 has fallen behind."

Last February, former Black and Latino workers for the Teamsters International Union initiated a legal suit accusing the union of racism after O'Brien became the union's president in March 2022. The lawsuit says that "rather than maintaining or increasing diversity, more than a dozen people of color were fired, setting back the Organizing Department's goals of effectively recruiting and organizing non-whites, in favor of bolstering the majority white membership."

It also claims that O'Brien "publicly humiliated" the plaintiffs in the case, calling them "bad apples" and "lazy."

Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU), the promoters of O'Brien, were

once seen as rank-and-file reformers in the union. At its November convention, the TDU tabled a motion for a ceasefire in Gaza. The motion for a ceasefire had been put forward by Teamsters Mobilize (TM) members, a much smaller network of Teamsters activists. One member of TM was banned from the TDU convention for criticizing it. TM has campaigned for \$25 per hour starting pay for part-timers and for solidarity with Palestine.

## 'A slap in the face'

Richard Hooker Jr., the secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 623 and vice-president of the Philadelphia AFL-CIO Board, said: "As leaders, we have to do a better job of explaining to our members that a vote for Trump is a vote against your pension, a vote for Trump is a vote against organizing workers, a vote for Trump is another vote against the working class."

Jess Lister, a shop steward in Georgia and member of the Teamsters LGBTQ caucus, who has helped lead a campaign to organize part-time UPS workers, called the meeting "a slap in the face."

Lister added that she did not support Biden, but that she viewed the Trump meeting as especially galling given his record of stacking the courts with anti-union judges and overseeing a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) that issued rulings making it harder for workers to organize.

"He has a longstanding history of racism, of hate towards women, towards minorities, towards the LGBTQ community — he is not accepting of other people," Lister said. "Our union president shouldn't even entertain the idea of a meeting. That shouldn't have even been on the table." #

# Hopes of a dying trans woman

By Hannah Kolbeck

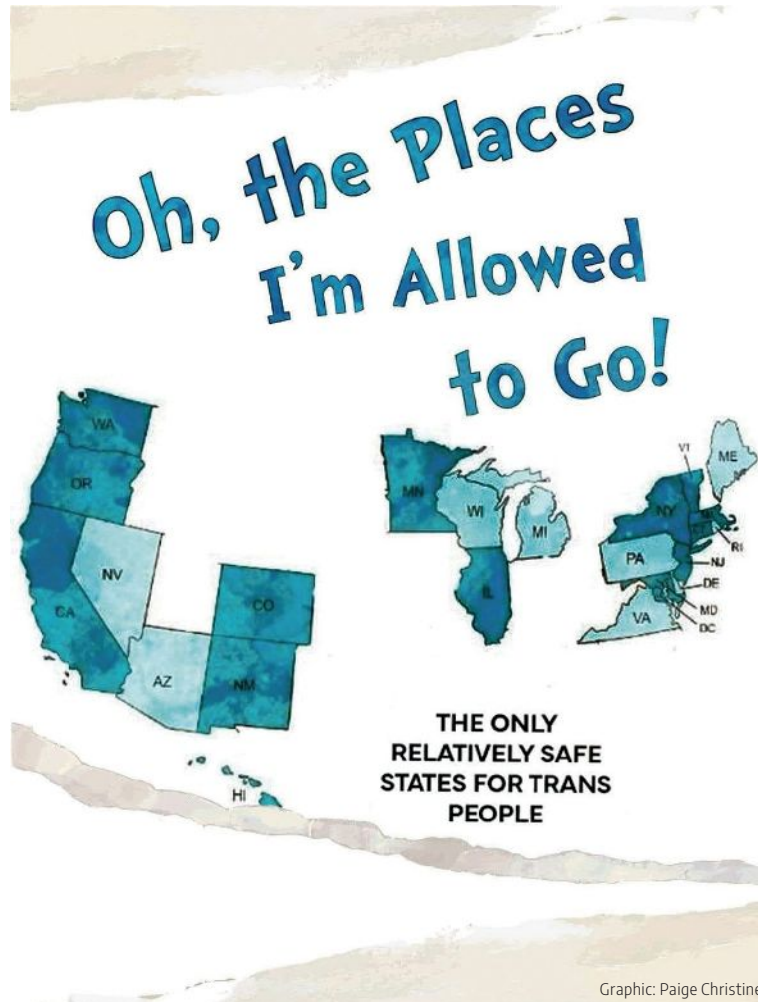
**As I'm Dying** I have so many people, from across all the eras of my life and all the communities I've felt so loved in, asking how they can help. By the time you read this, I may have died of a glioma in the left temporal lobe of my brain.

## So how can you help?

**You Can Fight** against transphobia in society, in law, and in the streets. You can listen when trans people cry out that we are already being murdered and a vast worldwide network of power is in motion pushing toward our eradication. You can listen when we say what we need that's currently unreachable or withheld. You can listen when we talk about the threats to our lives and freedom that are currently under construction or waiting in the shadows.

## Learn from the oppressed the nature of their oppression.

**Right Now** powerful forces are using the state, their money, and their connections to make sure trans kids never see that there's a way to live as themselves. As I write this, bills are being passed in the U.S. which lay the foundation for the removal of the very idea of transness from the widely visible internet. I hope you seek out trans-created content wherever you live online and amplify it. I hope you read trans-recommended writing on the subjects of gender and transition. I hope you listen to what we say publicly until we're no longer "those transgender people" but Hannah, Quinn, Andy... I hope if there are local organizations or campaigns that need volunteers you will step up and help. I hope if there are queer events in your area you will look into what they need and try to provide it. If necessary, contact the organizers directly and ask if there's anything you can do.



## If you are unwilling to spend time working for your values, you don't have values.

**Right Now** government powers from school boards to executives are actively working on banning transgender people being in public as themselves and limiting or removing our access to gender-confirming medical care. Many already have. Both are condemnations to a short lifetime full of pain. Transgender people are among the most impoverished groups because of the normalization and amplification of transphobia. We need resources to escape regions actively trying to kill us and find new homes in, for now, safer places. I hope you will seek out people asking for help on social media. While there are groups like Rainbow Railroad that work to evacuate those that can handle their submission process and queue, many trans people don't qualify or can't wait. They need to get out. The

place they can post their fundraisers or even just venmo/cashapp is social media. I hope you will send them what money you can.

## If you are unwilling to put any resources toward your values, you don't have values.

**Right Now** the worldwide conversation, on which the future of every trans person hinges, is driven by transphobes that want us erased from existence and history. That's made milder and more widely palatable by a news media that frames everything around gender as a complex question when "Should people die for being trans?" is a simple one. I hope when friends or co-workers or strangers say transphobic things you will butt in, even if it's uncomfortable, and be an advocate for us. I hope you will actively take our side when we are attacked, verbally or violently, around you. I hope you will get one of the

many trans flag "I'll Pee With You" pins or patches, and wear it out. You might actually be asked to make sure someone can use the bathroom safely. I hope you are willing to live up to your words. Often what Pride events need is people to physically stand between queers and the transphobes who want to hurt or kill us. I hope you're willing to be brave and put your body on the line.

If you are unwilling to take any risks for your values, you don't have values.

**You Must Choose** whether to be an ally or an accomplice. An ally is cheering from the stands as we are murdered. An accomplice is with us on the field fighting back.

## I hope you will choose to be an accomplice.

**Thanks In Advance,**  
Hannah Kolbeck

Source: [trans-hopes.glitch.me](https://trans-hopes.glitch.me)



# Migrant caravans are challenging an oppressive border regime

By Timor Landherr

Over Christmas, images of thousands of women, men, and children walking behind a banner and a man carrying a white cross appeared on the front pages of media outlets worldwide. They were Venezuelans, Hondurans, Guatemalans, Cubans, Haitians, and others who together formed the “exodus from poverty” (Exodo de la Pobreza), as the banner reads.

Many of them looked tired after walking dozens of miles through southern Mexico. Many carried their children, belongings, and even their pets toward the North.

Mexican authorities disbanded the caravan by offering regularization and transport buses just after New Year’s Eve. About ten days later, the caravaners reassembled in Oaxaca to make their way northward.

This was by no means the first border caravan to progress through Mexican territory. A month earlier, another caravan, also several thousand participants strong, had marched through the south of Mexico. In April 2023, three thousand migrants gathered in Tapachula, united in a northward march to protest the country’s detention system.

The urgency of their cause was underscored just weeks prior when a fire killed forty detained migrants in Ciudad Juárez, within sight of El Paso, demonstrating the lethality of the existing border-control system. The people who take part in the border caravans are mounting a challenge to that system by voting with their feet.

## Challenging the border regime

When the largest caravan to date approached the U.S. border during the 2018 midterms, Donald Trump sent the military to the border. Trump spoke of a foreign invasion and promised to crush the caravans.

Joe Biden’s rhetoric as president has been less harsh. However, despite Republican claims that his administration has somehow pulled U.S. border security to pieces, Biden has quietly continued and intensified the violent, senseless



Central American migrants taking part in caravans that cross Mexico’s territory are often presented as pawns manipulated by NGOs or smuggling gangs. In fact, they’re making an active choice to challenge a violent border system that extends far beyond U.S. soil.

border and migration strategies of his predecessor.

Nevertheless, “irregular” migration has increased, and caravans full of people fleeing dispossession become increasingly frequent. It is almost as if the globalized U.S. border regime and the imperialism it backs are not preventing but rather precipitating the caravans.

Decades of dispossession and destabilization in Latin America have shrunk the space people see for their future. Yet, when they gather to take on one of the world’s most tightly-knit border regimes, they find collective agency precisely where hope seems least probable.

## False images

Too often, analyses of these caravans, be they in Mexico, Belarus, or Turkey, take one of two positions. The Right paints them as “invading hordes” directed by NGOs, activists, or other enemies of the state. Liberals, on the other hand, tend to see them as pawns manipulated by politicians and deceived by smugglers.

Migrants themselves rarely appear in these analyses as anything other than passive witnesses of the horrors of irregular migration. While there is much truth in the descriptions of violence, exploitation, and abuse along the U.S.’s vertical border, a crucial part of the story is missing: self-organization by migrants to overcome this violence. This makes it all too easy to shift the blame to anyone and anything but the imperialist border regime that produces it.

Caravans are an active response to border externalization — the extension of border regimes into the territory of third countries. This strategy makes migration increasingly dangerous and produces the precarity that makes migrants particularly exploitable once they arrive at their (often temporary) destination. It is an integral part of what migrant activist and author Harsha Walia calls “border imperialism.”

U.S. foreign policy is to blame for much of the violence and poverty that robs people in Latin America of their right to stay in their home regions. This impact manifests itself in the form of direct or indirect interventions and dispossession through unequal trade and waves of ruthless privatization backed by U.S.-supported local autocrats.

For a few decades now, the United States has attempted to remove the result of its politics — displaced people — from its immediate territorial boundary. This becomes evident through repeated statements from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) that declare the Southwestern border to be the “last line of defense, not the first.”

Through a series of deals, the U.S. border has, in effect, been extended deep into Mexican and even Guatemalan territory. The highly militarized, internationally active Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC) that “defends” the United States against transit migrants in Mexico and Black Lives Matter protesters in Portland is just the most obvious example of this stretching.

Because migration is treated as a security issue, migrants have to become invisible. Aggressive border practices, which often include abuse and extortion by authorities, force migrants to move where they cannot be detected. The further they move away from public space, the more dangerous their journey becomes. Many migrants now refer to the journey across Mexican territory as “The Corridor of Death” (El corredor de la Muerte).

Read the full article here:

<http://tinyurl.com/yabxvs4h>

Source: *Internationalist 360*

# Studying Lenin to fight imperialist war and racism

By Gary Wilson

*Introductory presentation to the Struggle-La Lucha class on the book “War and Lenin in the 21st Century,” Feb. 4, 2024.*

This year marks the centennial of V.I. Lenin’s death. His famous pamphlet “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism” has immensely influenced the politics of the last century. That’s in part because Lenin was the leader of the first socialist revolution as well as the de facto leader of the Third (Communist) International. Even if Lenin had not led a socialist revolution, his pamphlet likely would have been influential, though maybe not as much as it has been.

To fully understand the importance of Lenin’s pamphlet, you need to know the circumstances in which it was written and why Lenin wrote it. Lenin always had a specific political purpose for his major writings.

So, Lenin wrote “Imperialism” while European capitalism was tearing itself apart in the upheaval of the First World War.

Leaders of the Second International — an international organization that was established in 1889 to unite socialists worldwide — had recognized the growing likelihood of a major conflict among the European powers. While Lenin expected the war, the disintegration of the Second International caught him off guard. As the war unfolded in Europe in the summer of 1914, most of the Second International’s branches sided with their own countries against the other countries, effectively ending the Second International.

Before the war, there had been widespread anti-war agitation on the part of the socialist parties of Germany, France, and other European countries. Mass anti-war rallies were staged in most capital cities. At that time, the anti-war struggle was considered an inseparable part of the working-class struggle against capitalism.



Vladimir Lenin giving a speech to the Red Army in Sverdlov Square, Moscow, May 5, 1920. On the right of the platform is Leon Trotsky, commander of the Red Army.

Based on the sizable anti-war movement before the war and the anti-war conferences held by the parties of the Second International from all countries, the outbreak of the war was expected to put the overthrow of capitalism at the top of the Second International’s agenda. The workers of all these countries were united to defend their interests against the capitalists and their war.

Capitalism, imperialism and inter-imperialist rivalries were the root cause of the war; therefore, overturning capitalism would end the war. And that’s what the Second International had pledged before the war. But too many of the Second International’s parties in the imperialist countries ended up supporting their own imperialists in the war.

So, Lenin’s writings in those years were linked to the Second International’s collapse and the efforts to establish a new Third International. From Lenin’s perspective, the new International would be based on the lessons learned from the Second International’s failure. At the center of Lenin’s analysis was the phenomenon Lenin and other leaders of the Second International had come to call “imperialism.”

## The meaning of imperialism

Today’s socialists are coming up against the questions that confronted earlier generations of socialists, both in the U.S. and worldwide, especially this

question of imperialism and imperialist war. What is the meaning of the word “imperialism”?

What position should you take on the wars now raging in Palestine, Yemen, and Syria and the threatening spread of a U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine? Or Washington’s threats targeting Venezuela and North Korea? Or the war buildup against China?

Struggles against imperialism are often fought with socialist goals, such as the Cuban Revolution in 1959. Socialists today support and defend Cuba

and the Cuban Communist Party.

But anti-imperialist struggles are not always led by people who share our aims. Sometimes, as we have seen, resistance to imperialism is led by reformist political forces that are pro-capitalist, even reactionary, the opposite of all that socialists believe in. What stand should we take when Biden mobilizes the Army and Navy, the Air Force and Marines, and billions in weapons and ammunition to Ukraine for war on Russia to enforce, in his words, a civilizing “rules-based international order” against the evil Putin?

Back before World War One, socialists in the Second International opposed the imperialist war against the reactionary monarchy of China as a colonialist war of aggression. But the right wing of the Second International began to argue that imperialism had a civilizing mission. They claimed that Western capitalism was bringing the benefits of capitalism and Western civilization to the “uncivilized nations.” They said those countries must go through a stage of capitalism to become civilized.

A majority of the leaders of the Second International rejected these arguments. However, the openly pro-imperialist, pro-colonial, racist right-wing Social Democrats who supported the “civilizing mission” of imperialism were tolerated as a legitimate current within the

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## BOOK REVIEW

# War & Lenin in the 21st Century

By Gloria Verdieu

"I trust that this pamphlet will help the reader to understand the fundamental economic question... the question of the economic essence of imperialism, for unless this is studied, it will be impossible to understand and appraise modern war and modern politics."

– Vladimir I. Lenin, Preface to "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism"

The words imperialism, capitalism, socialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, combined with words like war, occupation, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), IMF (International Monetary Fund), and globalization, are used at many mass demonstrations worldwide. What do these terms mean?

Gary Wilson's recently released book, "War and Lenin in the 21st Century," defines these terms with a 21st-century analysis and concrete examples. His analysis builds on V.I. Lenin's 20th-century classic, "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism," which is also included in the book.

Some of the topics discussed in the book include:

What are the key features of imperialism that Lenin describes?

Does Lenin's analysis of imperialism hold up today?

What does this mean for today's struggles against wars and occupation?

On the cover of Wilson's book is a protester in the forefront with both hands up, one holding a sign that reads "STOP NATO" and the other giving a peace sign. In the background is a sea of people in Berlin protesting NATO's involvement in the Russian-Ukraine conflict in January 2023. Protesters gathered under Berlin's iconic landmark, the Brandenburg Gate, which symbolizes Cold War Berlin. Above the book title is an image of the massive demonstration in Niger against French

neo-colonialism and U.S./French imperialism in August 2023.

With the worldwide humanitarian and environmental crisis that exists today as the result of global war, it is imperative that people deepen their understanding of the meaning of imperialist wars, neo-colonialism, and occupation.

I purchased the paperback copy of the book on Amazon and liked the font size, index, and extra blank pages for notes. Having Lenin's analysis of imperialism included helps in examining how it holds up today by highlighting key terms throughout the book referenced in the index.

Gary Wilson is a writer and co-editor for Struggle-La Lucha. The first five chapters can be accessed online at Struggle-La-Lucha.org, and V.I. Lenin's "Imperialism" is also available on the Marxists Internet Archive.

I highly recommend this book for study and discussion sessions seeking a deeper understanding of imperialism and imperialist wars. #

## 'War and Lenin in the 21st Century'

New book released on the 100th anniversary of Lenin's death

Vladimir Lenin, the revolutionary leader of the Soviet Union and a key contributor to Marxist theory, wrote **"Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism"** in 1916, more than a century ago. It is still one of the most influential critiques of imperialism.

After the first imperialist world war broke out, Lenin's main interest was promoting a socialist revolution to end the war. To this end, he exposed the war's economic roots and explained why the popular Social Democratic anti-war movement had crumbled. Lenin identified imperialism's key features: monopoly capitalism, finance capital, the export of capital, and colonialism, leading to the competitive division of the world among the imperialist powers.

### Does Lenin's analysis of imperialism hold up today?

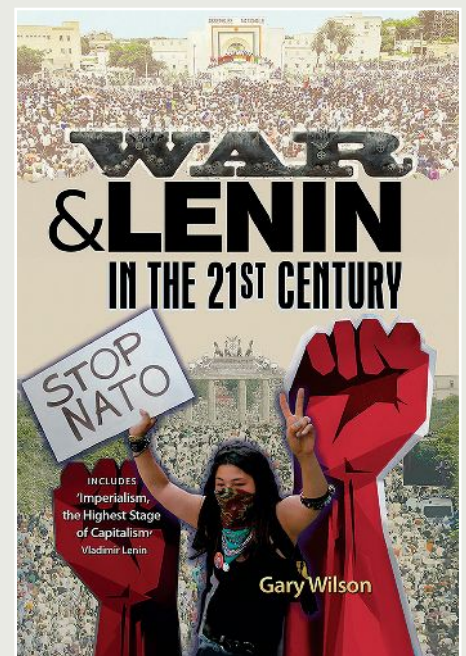
The United States emerged from WWII as the world's most powerful imperialist country, gaining control of European and Japanese empires in Asia and Africa. It established the U.S. dollar as the international currency and engaged in endless wars to maintain what the Cubans call **'The Empire.'**

Unlike in 1914, the U.S. military-industrial complex dominates the imperialist world.

As in Lenin's time, the conclusion is that socialist revolution will end imperialist war, enabling workers to meet their own needs.

This book includes Lenin's original pamphlet.

Available in paperback or kindle at [tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar](https://tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar)



# U.S. hands off Iraq, Syria, Yemen & Palestine! Will the Pentagon attack Iran?

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7 Al-Aqsa Flood offensive.

While the capitalist media gave wall-to-wall coverage to this allegation, it's been almost silent about the 154 UNRWA employees killed by Israel.

That one-out-of-a-thousand UNRWA employees supposedly participated in this uprising was enough for the United States and eight other capitalist countries to cut off funding. Endangered are the UNRWA's 706 schools with over 500,000 students and 140 health facilities.

In 2022, the U.S. contribution towards these absolutely essential activities was \$344 million. The U.S. Senate voted on Feb. 4 to give 40 times as much — \$14 billion — to the Israeli military to kill more Palestinian children.

Continual racist poison is necessary for this slaughter. Fox News and Tucker Carlson are not the only sources for a sewer of Islamophobia.

New York Times columnist Thomas

Friedman has likened resistance fighters in Palestine and Lebanon to insects. Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting has rightfully compared Friedman's words with Nazi descriptions of Jewish people.

The Nazis used insecticide to kill millions in the gas chambers. The U.S.-supplied white phosphorus bombs that Israel drops on Gaza are not any more humane.

## Is Iran or Korea next?

Biden's bombings of Iraq, Syria and Yemen don't satisfy everyone in the military-industrial-complex. They want to attack Iran, a country of nearly 90 million people.

Forty-five years ago the Iranian people overthrew the U.S. puppet called the Shah. His CIA-trained torturers in the SAVAK secret police were hunted down and given justice.

Even the Pentagon's defeat by the Vietnamese people may not have affect-

ed Wall Street as much as the Iranian Revolution did.

The real Dr. Evil — David Rockefeller of the Chase Manhattan Bank, now JP Morgan Chase, with assets of \$3.9 trillion — welcomed the exiled Shah to the U.S.

For if the Shah could be overthrown, why not the kings, emirs and other U.S. stooges in the Arabian peninsula? The supremacy of the U.S. dollar as world money rests upon them, particularly the Saudi monarchy, using greenbacks.

For many in the Pentagon, the way out of their quagmire in Western Asia is to attack Iran. Or will the next target be the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (called "North Korea" in the media)?

Meanwhile the Pentagon is continuing its "pivot to Asia," which is aimed at the People's Republic of China. And the U.S. is conducting a full scale war against the Russian Federation in Ukraine.

These bloody wars will continue no matter who wins the presidential election, until the people stop them. #

# Studying Lenin to fight imperialist war and racism

*Continued from page 6*

Second International.

Later, as I said before, the whole Second International was ripped apart as various sections of the International supported their own imperialist governments against other imperialist governments. After this occurred, Lenin and his supporters concluded that the Third International they were trying to build would have to exclude such racist, pro-imperialist, pro-colonial forces.

## Uniting two revolutionary currents

Lenin's pamphlet on imperialism connects two revolutionary currents -- the proletarian revolution in the imperialist countries and the anti-imperialist liberation struggles in the colonized nations.

Rather than being separate, unequal events, Lenin shows they are interdependent; they are linked.

Imperialism is global, making the world revolutionary process also global. Lenin's analysis extended Marxism from being a theory of the proletarian revolution in the advanced capitalist countries to a theory of world revolution.

Lenin wrote in another document that the Communist International's entire policy should rest primarily on a closer union of the proletarians in the imperialist countries and the oppressed masses of all countries for a joint revolutionary struggle to overthrow the landowners and the bourgeoisie. (Thus, the slogan "Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!") That unity alone can guarantee victory over capitalism.

Socialism is now the goal of all revolutions, no matter where they occur.

As for why the Second International collapsed, Lenin answered based on an earlier suggestion by Frederick Engels that a "labor aristocracy" had risen in the imperialist countries that were "bribed" from imperialist super-profits.

At that time, the U.S. was an emerging imperialist power. As a settler state, its colonies were internal, starting with the brutal subjugation of the Indigenous population and the enslaved African American colony.

Following enslavement, African Americans were forced to sell their labor power at a considerably cheap-

er price than the white workers and, therefore, perform extra unpaid labor compared to white workers. This extra unpaid labor created a profit above and beyond the average rate of profit, the super-profit that was partially shared with a privileged, segregated labor aristocracy, particularly the labor leaders and politicians.

This is the material basis for the widespread racism among white workers that has so weakened the U.S. working class and the labor unions. The U.S. has also attracted many immigrants from countries around the world who can also be super-exploited. Among the most super-exploited were the immigrants from China starting in the late 1800s. The various immigrant communities, in some cases, have served as what amounted to "internal colonies" that produced extra surplus value.

That's why the fight against racism, against national oppression, for Black and Brown liberation, for gender liberation, and international working-class solidarity is paramount in the struggle for socialism. #



# Shut Down D.C.: Stop U.S.-led war on Palestine & Yemen

By Lev Koufax

Washington, D.C.,  
Feb. 1.

SLL photo: Lev Koufax



As February 2024 began, the struggle in solidarity with the Palestinian resistance continued in earnest.

As the sun rose on Feb. 1, approximately 200 protesters, including a reporter from Struggle-La Lucha, gathered in front of Union Station in Washington, D.C., to demand an end to the U.S.-led war on Palestine and Yemen, and to restore funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

The Biden administration led the charge for the West to collectively withdraw all funding for UNRWA after the Zionist entity levied phony accusations regarding UNRWA involvement in the

Oct. 7, 2023, attacks against occupation forces.

Today's protests weren't limited to Union Station. Hundreds of anti-Zionist demonstrators took to the streets to stop traffic at intersections and exit ramps across the capital. The message was clear: no business as usual in the imperial core as long as Palestine remains under siege.

The coalition that organized the "Shut Down D.C." day of demonstrations included the Palestinian Youth Movement, the U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Civil Rights, Party for Socialism and Liberation, and many more. #

## NYC continues to 'get louder' for Palestine

By Struggle-La Lucha  
New York Bureau

Thousands of people marched in Manhattan on Feb. 4 to demand a ceasefire and an end to the genocide in Gaza. At least 30,000 Palestinians, including 10,000 children, have been murdered there.

The action, called by the Shut It Down for Palestine Coalition, started with a rally in front of the great reference library on Fifth Avenue.

One of the speakers was Manolo De Los Santos, executive director of The People's Forum, who has been targeted for arrest by the cops. Police busted De Los Santos again at Sunday's peaceful protest, along with six other people.

The recent series of arrests is part of an attempted crackdown on the pro-Palestinian events. It's reminiscent of police attacks on the Black Lives Matter movement.

One of the cops' excuses for busting



SLL photo: Stephen Millies

protesters is the use of bullhorns and other sound devices. So people were encouraged to bring noisemakers, drums and anything else to make it louder for Palestine.

Thousands marched down Fifth Avenue and across 34th Street, past the block-long Macy's department store. Police continually played a recorded message threatening arrests if people didn't stay on the sidewalk. Nobody was intimidated and marchers took to the streets

when they could.

People then marched north on Eighth Avenue, stopping briefly at the New York Times, which has been lying about Palestine for 75 years. The march ended at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

The complex was built by evicting thousands of Puerto Rican and Black families from the neighborhood.

It was a mini-Nakba, like the Nakba that drove 750,000 Palestinians from their homeland.

Among the groups that organized the protest were the Palestinian Youth Movement; Al Awda NY/NJ; The Palestine Right to Return Coalition; Students for Justice in Palestine; The People's Forum; ANSWER Coalition; Party for Socialism and Liberation; and Neturei Karta, Jews Against Zionism.

Keep it louder for Palestine! #



# Why ‘blood libel’ charge against So. Africa case trivializes real antisemitism

By Lev Koufax

On Jan. 26, the International Court of Justice accepted South Africa’s landmark genocide case against the Zionist entity. The court issued the following ruling:

## “The Court indicates the following provisional measures:

(1) By fifteen votes to two,

The State of Israel shall, in accordance with its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in relation to Palestinians in Gaza, take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II of this Convention, in particular:

- killing members of the group;
- causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;

- deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.”

The ICJ’s ruling, while imperfect, was welcomed by the various resistance groups in Palestine, including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Islamic Resistance Movement – Hamas.

However, the imperialist world met the ICJ’s decision with vitriol. Zionist officials and their allies have ranted and raved against the South African genocide case since its inception.

As published by the CIA mouthpiece Voice of America, White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby claimed that South Africa’s ICJ filing was “meritless, counterproductive and completely without basis in fact whatsoever.”

The thousands of Palestinian children fighting for their lives while buried un-

der rubble may disagree with Kirby’s assessment.

To think, Kirby’s cruel comments came weeks before the ICJ even decided to accept South Africa’s case and order provisional measures for the Zionists to fulfill within 30 days.

The wave of Western outrage at the South African filing did not end with U.S. security officials. Zionist media outlets and officials went on a full blitz against the accusations of genocide, including alleging that the South African case was a “blood libel.”

Needless to say, the reaction of the U.S., the Zionist entity, and the other imperialists when the ICJ actually ruled in favor of South Africa was extreme.

## Falsely invokes historical accusation

In the wake of the ICJ’s ruling, Zionist officials again raised the claim of blood

*Continued on page 13*



Jewish Voice for Peace and other anti-Zionist Jewish activists have led many protests against genocide in Gaza, including this Oct. 23, 2023, sit-in at the U.S. Capitol.



# Israel suffers a defeat at ICJ – time to push harder!

By John Parker

Before 2015 Palestinians' evidence of genocide by the Israeli state and militarized settlers was ignored by the ICC and International Court of Justice (ICJ). In 2015 Palestine was accepted as a member state of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

An investigation by the ICC covering 2014 to 2021 concluded there was a "reasonable basis" to the allegation of war crimes ongoing in Palestinian territories. However, Karim Khan, the new chief prosecutor, showed bias for Israel by stalling the continued investigation of the crimes.

But then, amidst the ongoing Israeli genocide in Gaza, South Africa stepped in – a former victim of apartheid with international support and the means to take on the ICJ on behalf of Palestine – and that could not be ignored.

African solidarity with Palestine, like the solidarity of Black people in the U.S., has a long tradition. That solidarity inspires the support of all sectors of the working class. The courage and skills of South Africa's representatives greatly moved our class.

The war wasn't won with the Jan. 26 ruling by the International Court of Justice calling on Israel to "prevent death, destruction and any acts of genocide in Gaza." But a battle was won by exposing and weakening Israel, forcing the ICJ to recognize almost every point in South Africa's charges and to take up the issue of genocide.

South Africa was clear about the necessity of calling for an immediate ceasefire. Many were hoping for this as well. But the ICJ failed humanity on that point and fell into its historic Western imperialist biases by demanding Hamas release Israelis captured during the conflict while ignoring the much greater number of Palestinians kidnapped by the Israeli "Defense" Forces (IDF).

The ICJ also seemingly forgot that the ongoing occupation of Palestine establishes the right to fight that occupation. It ignored the right of self-defense of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.



Pro-Palestinian protesters outside the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands, on Jan. 26.

## Genocide? Court couldn't decide

The ICJ ruling was indeed a gain. But it falls far short of the necessity of stopping the Israeli massacres that now have reached unprecedented levels of daily killings, threatening the entire 2.3 million population in Gaza, with Palestinian deaths since Oct. 7, 2023, nearing 30,000.

Add to those the deaths from famine and lack of health care as a result of the Israeli war, and many thousands could be added to that number in the near future.

Emergency medical care for the people of Gaza will continue to be denied as long as the Israeli massacres continue. After months of bombing, just 20% of hospital capacity remains. The crisis of health care and hunger is driven by showers of bullets and 155mm artillery shells provided by the United States, aimed at people attempting to distribute humanitarian aid – like the flour provided by the United Nations.

For attempting to feed children, parents and aid workers are being sentenced to death by the Israeli military.

Do the people in the ivory towers of the ICC and ICJ really need a year to figure out whether these atrocities against humanity should be considered genocide? A clear and formal call for a ceasefire, requested by South Africa, should have been made, given that about 30,000 Palestinians have been killed, with nearly 50% being children.

The week before the ICJ ruling, the Israeli bombings and massacres of Palestinians continued at the pace set after the Oct. 7 Israeli raids inside Gaza. Just one day before the ruling, 150 people were injured receiving food, and Israeli terrorists attacked civilians next to a shelter and hospital.

Al Jazeera reported: "On Jan. 25 the Gaza Health Ministry said the Israeli attacks killed 200 Palestinians in the last 24 hours and injured 370, as Israeli forces surrounded Nasser and Al-Amal hospitals in Khan Younis.

"At least 20 killed and 150 wounded as Israeli tanks fire shells and live rounds at people in northern Gaza City who lined up to receive much-needed humanitarian supplies, health officials say.

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# Israel suffers a defeat at ICJ – time to push harder!

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“The Israeli military demolished hundreds of buildings near its fence with Gaza as it seeks to create ‘a buffer zone’ in clear defiance of U.S. demands.

“Death toll from yesterday’s Israeli attack on UNRWA facility in Khan Younis rises to 13, as U.N. says Israel’s assurances of protecting civilians not being followed.”

And the day after ... the ICJ couldn’t decide whether the incidents should be considered genocide, or if calling for a ceasefire was really necessary.

Every hour in Gaza:

- 15 people are killed (six are children)
- 35 people are injured
- 42 bombs are dropped
- 12 buildings are destroyed

This is based on Israeli military figures for the first six days of the genocide, and it has not de-escalated since then. In fact, the Israeli military needed to re-order more artillery shells with special overnight delivery from Antony Blinken and Joe Biden, sidestepping Congress.

Congress probably didn’t mind, though, in light of the almost unanimous Democratic and Republican vote for a bill supporting Zionism – in its most reactionary, fascist form, represented by Benjamin Netanyahu.

So every day of killing means 15 x 24 Palestinians, with 6 x 24 being children. Killed by the U.S.-funded, U.S.-armed Israeli military. Every day.

## **U.S. cuts relief funds**

On the same day the ICJ made its ruling, Washington decided that cutting off funds to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) was a good idea. Even though the UNRWA facility in Gaza that provides vital, life-saving medical care to the injured was the site of a massacre the day before. Even though civilians there were bombed by shells from tanks launched by the Israeli military, it seems this was a good idea.

The decision to freeze UNRWA funds was based on an allegation, made solely by Israel, claiming that 12 members of UNRWA were part of the Oct. 7 military operation by the Palestinian resistance. (Israel’s government has been caught in numerous lies before and since Oct. 7.)

According to Reuters: “Since Israel launched its war following the Oct. 7 attacks, around a million Gazans, or nearly 45% of the enclave’s population, have been sheltering in UNRWA schools, clinics and other public buildings.

“Nearly the entire Gazan population now relies on UNRWA for basic necessities, including food, water and hygiene supplies.

“More than 150 UNRWA staff have been killed since the start of the conflict, making it the deadliest conflict ever for U.N. employees.”

Philippe Lazzarini, commissioner general of the agency, said it was “shocking” that the U.S. and others cut off UNRWA’s funds.

“I urge countries who have suspended their funding to reconsider their decisions before UNRWA is forced to suspend its humanitarian response,” Lazzarini said in his statement. “The lives of people in Gaza depend on this support and so does regional stability.”

## **Victory forced out of ICJ**

The ICJ ruling is certainly a historic development and a victory for South Africa and the world’s people in attempting to weaken and isolate Israel’s policies of genocide and apartheid.

It also clearly implicates not only Israel for its crime of genocide, but also the givers of funds and weapons who make that genocide possible. So far, this has not deterred the direction of Israel or the U.S., Britain, Australia and Canada, which follow the lead of the Biden administration and the Republican Party.

The ICJ said the continuation of famine and targeting of civilians and children are genocidal attacks and must end. Although giving Israel a month to check on the progress shows a lack of urgency in the ICJ, the ruling does allow the U.S. to be implicated in the crime of genocide – but the U.S. chose the day of the ICJ ruling to announce it was freezing funds for the U.N. agency standing in the way of famine and providing shelter and a modicum of safety, especially for Palestinian children.

The U.S. doubled down on genocide by defunding UNRWA. The next day Britain, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Finland, the Netherlands also suspended funds.

The ICJ gave the world a victory that it did not want to give. It had no choice – not if it wants to keep some legitimacy in the eyes of the international working class. It was in spite of the historic role the ICJ and ICC have played in denying the suffering, the occupation, the right of self-defense of Palestinians, and the internationally legally right to fight an occupation, politically and militarily. That is exposed by the court’s refusal to call for a ceasefire, and its lack of courage to label Israeli genocide now – not in months or years.

In spite of this, the international community and Palestinian leadership take the victory and demand they give us more, and we and they don’t have to ask for it in a nice way. However, we also have to make room for the visibility of people in Gaza who shed tears after finding out the ceasefire was not demanded clearly and that there was no clear condemnation of genocide.

Bisan Owda, a Palestinian filmmaker, activist, and journalist, has documented the crisis in Gaza since the latest Israeli terror campaign started. Owda has worked with the United Nations and shared footage with Western corporate media. After the IDF told Gaza residents to evacuate, Owda and her parents relocated from Beit Hanoun to Al-Shifa Hospital. Her family’s home and her office in Rimal were both bombed, destroying all of Owda’s film equipment.

Using only her phone for documentation, she shared a video of Gaza after the ICJ ruling. You could hear the sirens and the commotion in the background – the sounds of a war Zone:

“There is no justice in the International Court of Justice. The ICJ is dealing with a case of genocide that Israel is committing against Palestinians in Gaza Strip, forgets to tell Israel in her decision today to cease fire against Palestinians in Gaza.

“We are under fire and under killing. We are under genocide for day 112 and the ICJ says the only solution for us and the final hope for us is forgetting to tell Israel to cease fire against us. Forgets to tell Israel that Israel must allow people who are displaced from the north of Gaza strip to return to their homes again. There is no justice in this world.

*Continued on page 13*



# Israel ICJ defeat Charge trivializes real antisemitism

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ICJ is a lie, that's it. Thanks world.

"We are continuing this alone as we started this alone, with our own mobiles, to tell you the truth and to seek for justice. Now there's no truth or justice. I'm just stuck out of my home and can't get back and no one can get me back to my home or to stop killing us day after day for 112 days. There is no justice in this world."

As Owda shed a tear, so did I.

## All forms of struggle must continue

The struggle in all forms must continue. As Hamas Chair Ismail Haniyeh said, the ruling "confirms the legitimacy of the Palestinian resistance and the criminality of the Israeli occupation."

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said the ruling "proves that the Palestinian people have the right to defend themselves and to seek justice and accountability for the crimes committed against them."

South African determination and ability to build international support for the effort forced the ICJ to take their case and moved the struggle forward. South Africa's Foreign Ministry said it was a "landmark ruling... [which] determined that Israel's actions in Gaza are plausibly genocidal" and can only be interpreted as ordering an end to Israeli attacks.

"South Africa sincerely hopes that Israel will not act to frustrate the application of this order, as it has publicly threatened to do," said the Foreign Ministry statement.

South Africa was disappointed that the ruling did not order Israel to halt its military offensive in Gaza, as it had requested. But the people will take this limited victory and demand they give us more, and we don't have to ask in a nice way.

The Ansarallah movement in Yemen certainly isn't – and we also support that.

*John Parker is running for Congress in California (CA-37) representing the Socialist Unity Party on the Peace and Freedom ticket.*

*Continued from page 10*

libel. In particular, Zionist president and war criminal Isaac Herzog issued a statement in response to the ruling. Herzog frothed, "Israel has the right of full self-defense" and "everyone with sense can see that Israel is acting in accordance with international law."

Herzog didn't stop there. The blow-hard child murderer went as far as to argue that any accusation of genocide against the Zionist entity is blood libel. There's that phrase again!

To fully dissect Herzog's comments as the hateful and toxic venom that they are, it is important to first reckon with the blood libel conspiracies that have been weaponized against the Jewish community for hundreds of years.

A blood libel is a superstitious accusation that Jewish people perform ritual blood sacrifice of Christians for a variety of reasons. The myth developed in medieval Europe in the 12th century. Originally, it was claimed that Jews sacrificed Christian children to obtain the blood needed to make unleavened bread, or matzah.

As if the idea that Jews require blood to make matzah is not ridiculous enough on its own, the blood libel mythology further evolved in meaning and connotation.

One of the most famous depictions of such a blood libel is William Shakespeare's play, "The Merchant of Venice." In the play, a Jewish merchant named Shylock demands a "pound of flesh" from a Christian whom Shylock believed wronged him. This version of the blood libel myth became more and more common as antisemitism focused more on ethnic than religious hatred.

It was this particular and broader formulation of the blood libel myth that rose to mass prominence in Nazi Germany and its fascist allies in the 1930s and 1940s.

At the core of the contemporary blood libel charge is the idea that Jews are inherently devious and unreasonable. To that end, Jews

will demand a blood libel not only to practice their "satanic rituals," but as recompense for perceived wrongs.

Simply put, any accusation from the Jewish community about antisemitism is really just a pretext for a pound of flesh, according to this lie.

## Antisemitism alive and well – in U.S.

There is no doubt that blood libel antisemitism is alive and well – not only in the growing U.S. neo-Nazi movement but in depictions of Jewish people in mainstream media.

For an institution supposedly run by a global Jewish cabal, Hollywood certainly produces a lot of television and films that depict Jews as unreasonable, vengeful, and bloodthirsty.

With all that said, for the war criminal Herzog to assert that a thorough South African ICJ case against the Zionist entity is equivalent to hundreds of years of antisemitic mythology is a disgrace.

Herzog and the broader Zionist movement's accusations of blood libel against South Africa trivialize the very real phenomena of blood libel antisemitism and all antisemitism.

The attempt to use the oppression of Jewish people to justify the genocide of the Palestinian people and obfuscate any attempt to stop that genocide is as callous as it is arrogant.

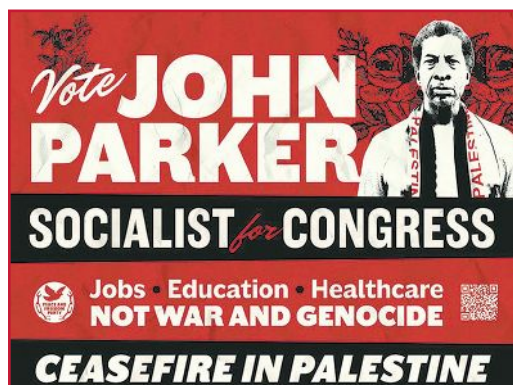
In fact, the current greatest purveyors of the blood libel myth are the wealthy and powerful of the United States and its Zionist project.

Is it not the U.S. government, the Zionist government, and all their allies who incessantly assert that to be Jewish is to have a blood feud against all Arab people? Is it not Benjamin Netanyahu who insists that every Jew has a solemn and inherent responsibility to kill Arab people?

The real antisemitism lies within the U.S. ruling class, and that same ideology permeates even into what is supposed to be a "Jewish state."

Zionism is not about Judaism. Zionism is not about combating antisemitism. Zionism is only about the proliferation of the imperialist agenda and expansion of Western ruling class profits.

*Lev Koufax is an anti-Zionist Jewish activist.*



# CUBA SOLIDARITY

## What else can we do?

By Deisy Francis Mexidor

Car license plates in the United States have the standard format of 150×300 mm. The top part shows the name of the state, and the bottom part usually has a motto or phrase famous in the state. This is the story told by Cheryl LaBash, the owner of a Toyota with an unusual, interesting, and supportive license plate circulating around that country.

So many I can't remember, Cheryl LaBash replies with a smile when asked how many times she has visited Cuba. She is one among countless Americans who call for the rapprochement of the two shores with the love, energy, resilience, and nobility of a people who have managed to survive against all odds.

She is like an industrious ant when it comes to Cuba. How does Cheryl manage to be in Detroit one day, Boston the next, and Washington, D.C., the next? And in that back and forth, she drives her dark gray Toyota on roads, highways, and streets with a singular license plate: "Cuba Si."

The idea, she says, came from Lisa Valanti, founder of the Pittsburgh-Matanzas Sister Cities Association for 30 years. She has the same license plate on her car, and "then I said to myself, why not? Her action was my inspiration."

So "we have mine from Michigan and Lisa's from Pennsylvania. That means

there are 48 other opportunities for people to show their love for Cuba in this way, with this special license plate," she said, referring to the possibility in the remaining 48 states.

Sometimes, she is surprised when other drivers honk their horns as they pass by, and she says: "It obviously means there is a feeling for Cuba," and she proudly insists that "my car has driven from coast to coast and even all over Florida."

In addition to the license plate, Cheryl carries with her a "major league baseball cap with the 'C' on the front and a Cuban flag folded in the wallet. It's a good way to make sure Cuba is always there, too."

### A shortwave radio

Soft-spoken and noble-looking, Cheryl is a woman who has long embraced the struggle for justice and human rights in a general sense. Although she feels her heart is young, she says she has "lived several years."

It was her grandparents, immigrants from Eastern Europe, who raised her and forged her personality back in Arizona in a period that sensitized her to the struggles of migrants coming to the U.S. without speaking English.

"I lived through the Vietnam War period, which opened the eyes of a generation, as Palestine is doing today to a



Cheryl LaBash

Photos: Deisy Francis Mexidor

much more educated and advanced generation, who realize that war is something more than an accidental policy."

Her husband back then, a graduate student at a Midwestern university, was in danger of being drafted and sent to war, and "part of our activism consisted of listening to Radio Habana Cuba's English-language programming on a shortwave radio to update ourselves with real news about Vietnam."

Since those youthful years, Cheryl has "participated in activism to end America's many unjust wars, abroad and at home."

"The harshest police brutality against Black youth and immigrants in the global south, militarization of local police, repression of the rights of workers and the poor, an end to racism, oppression of women and LGBTQ2 people. For me, all of this is connected to capitalism and its highest imperialist stage," she warned.

Today, we too are challenged by climate catastrophe, and it's all happening in real-time, LaBash said.

For the co-chair of the National Cuba Solidarity Network, which brings together more than 70 organizations in the country, it is a shame that the U.S. government is not in tune with the numerous "resolutions calling to remove Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism and end the blockade."

Those of us who live here in the United States – she argues – have a great responsibility to put an end to the unjust economic war that our country is waging



Cheryl LaBash (left) and Lisa Valanti, next to their cars with "Cuba Si" license plates.

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# CUBA SOLIDARITY

*Continued from page 14*

against Cuba, the Cuban government, and, ultimately, the Cuban people.

“Whatever the outcome of the 2024 elections, our main task is to build ties of friendship and solidarity with the Cuban people through travel, collaborative projects and awareness-raising,” the activist considered.

LaBash believes that, clearly, these are dangerous and unstable times, with rampant genocide in Gaza, the impoverishment of the working class for the benefit of the world’s ultra-rich, and the threat of a third world war looming over us all.

“Cuba’s internationalism is a wonderful example of José Martí’s statement that Homeland is Humanity and an alternative to the global conflict we see today.”

## At first glance

Cheryl LaBash ratifies that she loves Cuba because “it is a small but powerful example of how humanity can move forward even when faced with a cruel and aggressive economic, financial, commercial, and media blockade. “It is an inspiration and a northern star, which has now moved south, of how human beings can live with dignity.”

From that first time, in 1985, when she traveled to the Caribbean nation, as happens with lovers, she was captivated by that “indomitable and rebellious Cuba”. It was the celebration of May Day, where she was representing her union at the Detroit Health Department, that had a life-changing impact on her.

“The scandal of Black infant mortality in the United States and in Detroit in particular made headlines in the media. In Cuba I saw with my own eyes the care and resources provided to pregnant women and the special care provided to all children so that they can develop fully.”

Meanwhile, she laments that “Black infant and maternal mortality remains shamefully high in the United States. Cuba shows another way, and I just learned that they have extended maternity leave to 15 months. This is just a dream for most new parents in the United States.”

That clash with the Island in the 1980s allowed her to help start a labor solidar-

ity organization to exchange with the Central de Trabajadores de Cuba.

“We organized two worker delegations per year in the early 1990s. I then helped in the first Pastors for Peace caravans with Rev. Lucius Walker that challenged the blockade at both the Mexican and Canadian borders. I often don’t go, but I help with the preparations.”

In 2009, a year after retiring, she returned for May Day with a delegation from the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

## For freedom of Cuban 5

It was the struggle for the release of Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and René González from US prisons that intensified her commitment to Cuba.

“The International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban Five (currently the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity), led by Graciela Ramirez in Cuba and the late Alicia Jrapko, in the United States, organized creative projects such as the national tour of La Colmenita,” and she confesses that at that stage she learned that “you can never stop fighting.”

And looking back at that memorable time Cheryl reflects that “in a few months it will be ten years since their freedom in December 2014. That victory made us cry with joy when Gerardo, Ramón and Tony finally returned home.”

“It ended that terrible chapter. That tremendous struggle to free the Five was such a victory. It makes me so happy when I now see the photos with their families, next to their people,” adds Cheryl, who affirms that the closing of the special presentation of La Colmenita in 2011 is still a driving force and inspiration for her.

“I remember the children concluding the play with the cry, ‘Now what more can we do!’ and, you know, that’s my motto right now and every day. What more can we do to get Cuba off the SSOT (State Sponsors of Terrorism) list? What more can we do to end the blockade and let Cuba live?”

*Deisy Francis Mexidor is a correspondent with Prensa Latina in the U.S.*

*Source: Juventud Rebelde*

*Translation Resumen Latinoamericano – English*

# PFLP: War criminal Biden’s statements

*Continued from page 16*

The Front emphasized that Biden’s false statements about “the Zionist response behavior in the Strip exceeding the limit, and that he is working towards achieving a sustainable cessation of fighting” are brazen and evasive.

The U.S. administration to this moment does not support a ceasefire, overlooks the occupation’s massacres against civilians in the Strip, thwarted decisions to stop the aggression in the U.N. Security Council, and more dangerously, continues to supply the Zionist entity with various types of lethal weapons, and persists in its political cover for the occupation to continue the genocidal war against our people.

The Front added that the U.S. administration tries to exploit the humanitarian issue to try to beautify its ugly face before the voters and the American public, despite not exerting real pressure on the occupation to allow all relief aid into the Strip, most of which were prevented from entering, especially in the northern areas and Gaza suffering from siege, hunger, thirst, and diseases.

The Front clarified that Biden’s deceitful speech is aimed at the American voter after his popularity declined according to opinion polls.

The American public, especially among the Black, Arab and Palestinian communities, Indigenous people, and the youth, is beginning to lose confidence in the complexities of Biden’s administration, convinced that it is fully complicit in the Zionist genocide in the Gaza Strip, and does not respond to the American voters’ calls to stop this war and its support for the Zionist entity.

The Front concluded its statement, affirming that the U.S. administration’s full partnership in the Zionist genocide against our people is indisputable, and all statements and clamor of the U.S. administration about its efforts to stop the aggression and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid are exposed and false, falling before its behaviors on the ground, and its insistence on its stance in supporting the continuation of the occupation’s aggression on the Strip, and not stopping the aggression.

**Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine**

Central Media Office

*Source: Resistance News Network*

# Feminicidios y el estado colonial

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Si algo refleja el estado de deterioro de esta colonia, es la caótica situación de las mujeres y la infancia. Apenas en el inicio de este nuevo año, se ha asesinado a una mujer cada semana en una población de apenas 3 millones. Cuatro mujeres en las primeras cuatro semanas, de forma barbárica y en algunos de estos casos, incluyendo la matanza de familiares.

Pero hay que analizar más profundamente, porque expone no solo el deterioro, sino el carácter fallido de todo el entramado gubernamental que ha sustituido su deber de administrar para el beneficio de la población, por el de interceder para el beneficio de intereses privados y privatizadores. Todo esto avalado y promovido por el gobierno de facto, la nefasta Junta Dictatorial de Control Fiscal impuesta por el Congreso estadounidense.

Cuando se han examinado los casos de violencia doméstica, se ha comprobado el escalofriante fracaso de las agencias gubernamentales para resguardar la vida de las mujeres y sus familias. Desde la misma policía que cuenta con 422 querellas por violencia doméstica contra sus miembros desde el 2017, hasta el sistema judicial en el que muchísimos fiscales, abogados y jueces ignoran las pautas y medidas precisas que pudieran salvar la vida de las mujeres que solicitan órdenes de protección.

Esto ha quedado evidenciado estos días después de que uno de los medios



Foto: Colectiva Feminista en Construcción

del país forzó a que el tribunal publicara los audios de unas de estas vistas. El pueblo entero pudo escuchar el angustioso pedido de una mujer al sistema de justicia para que se le protegiera. Pero ese mismo sistema permitió, por inacción, que el violador la asesinara horas más tarde junto a su madre y a su hermano.

Por esto, periodistas independientes, personalidades competentes que luchan por los derechos de la mujer y organizaciones feministas han alzado su voz para denunciar la inacción de este gobierno indolente y exigir actuaciones con-

tinentes para prevenir estas muertes.

Para eso, la organización Colectiva Feminista en Construcción ha convocado a una jornada que han llamado “Nosotras por nuestras vidas”. Son jornadas de denuncias y exigencias al Estado para que implemente medidas de prevención. Desde ahora se celebrarán foros y otros eventos, que culminarán con una manifestación masiva el 8 de marzo. #

Desde Puerto Rico, para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci.



## PFLP: War criminal Biden's statements on Gaza are false, deceptive, and election-oriented

By PFLP

Feb. 9 — The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) confirmed that the recent statements by the U.S. president, war criminal Joe Biden, regarding Gaza are false, deceptive, and have electoral dimensions, reaffirming the involvement of the U.S. administration in the Zionist genocidal war waged against our people in the Gaza Strip.

*Continued on page 15*

One hundred Jewish and allied activists were arrested in New York City Feb. 7 after they blocked President Joe Biden's motorcade route to protest U.S. support for Israel's genocidal war against the Palestinian people and to demand an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

Photo: Jewish Voice for Peace NYC



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